



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School

Brown's Dump

Update

Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida

February 2001

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Brown's Dump Cleanup

Site History



Brown's Dump is land located in the City of Jacksonville in Duval County, Florida. The land has been used for various purposes, including hog farming and as a landfill for incinerator ash. In 1955, the Duval County School Board, through condemnation procedures, obtained part of this land. Part of the old landfill was used to construct the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School.

What's going on now?

- The draft remedial investigation (RI) for the site has been reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other interested groups. The Remedial Project Manager, Caroline Robinson, is working with the City of Jacksonville to make appropriate changes to the RI.
- The EPA is preparing a baseline risk assessment from data in the draft RI report.
- The EPA has requested the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) to conduct additional sampling.



What will happen later?

- EPA will continue to stay in contact with the community through door-to-door canvassing, meetings, and phone calls.
- A public meeting will be scheduled with the community when a cleanup remedy has been selected.

SITE: Brown's Dump
 BREAK: 13.9
 OTHER: _____

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Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School Questions and Answers

Why is Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School being closed?

The decision to close Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School was made by the City of Jacksonville. It is based on a memo that was sent to the Duval County School Board by the City of Jacksonville.

Did the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have anything to do with the decision to close Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did not make any suggestions or decisions to close the elementary school.

When will cleanup of Brown's Dump begin?

The cleanup process is still underway. However, the cleanup of the Brown's Dump area is not scheduled to begin until another year and a half. More sampling is being done to ensure that all areas of contamination have been identified and sampled.

How will the residents in the community be affected during cleanup?

Presently, the EPA is requesting more sampling to take place. Therefore, how the cleanup will take place has not been decided and the question cannot be fully answered at this time. Once EPA decides on a cleanup remedy, we will conduct a meeting to discuss how the cleanup will occur. At this meeting, community members will be told how the cleanup will occur and how the community will be affected. The community will have the opportunity to comment on EPA's clean up remedy.

Will it be necessary to relocate any community members?

At the present time, the EPA cannot answer any questions on relocation until all sampling has been completed and the full scale of contamination has been identified.

Are the children that attend the Mary McLeod Elementary School in any danger?

The children at the school are not in any immediate danger. Interim measures have been taken to protect the children and the community from any health hazards that could arise from contamination in the area. However, the school will ultimately be cleaned up to fully protect the community.



Contact information

Who do I contact if I have questions concerning the decision to close Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School?

Please contact:

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
Region 1 Office
3701 Winton Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32208
904-924-3450 Phone or 904-924-3455 FAX
prattdanne@educationcentral.org

Who do I contact if I have questions concerning the Brown's Dump cleanup?

If you have questions concerning the Brown's Dump cleanup please contact the following:

Caroline Robinson
Remedial Project Manager
U. S. EPA

61 Forsyth Street
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L'Tonya Spencer
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U. S. EPA

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MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**SUPERFUND POSITION PAPER
U.S. EPA, REGION 4
ATLANTA, GEORGIA***February 2001*

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, Atlanta Georgia, has learned that the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School is currently being evaluated for closure by the Duval County School Board, under recommendation of the its legal council. This is a local action and the School Board's decision on closure of the school will be a local decision that is not based on a Federal EPA mandate.

A Public Health Assessment (PHA, June 26, 2000) was prepared for EPA using the results of the sampling data collected from the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School. Based on this PHA, EPA did not recommend closure of Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary because of a health related concern. However, the EPA would not oppose a local decision to temporarily close the school until it is completely remediated.

EPA continues to support the recommendations stated in the June 2000 Public Health Assessment that was prepared by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau for Environmental Toxicology, under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (Federal Health Agency). Those recommendations are as follows:

1. Ensure that nearby residents and school officials are aware of the lead contamination behind the restricted fence line.
2. Access to the area inside the emergency response fencing should be restricted to limited exposure to lead-contaminated surface soil. Fences around the site should be checked monthly and damages prepared promptly. Warning signs should be posted on the emergency response fencing.
3. Periodic sampling of the playground surface soil should be conducted.
4. Further sampling should be conducted to determine the extent of contamination in ground water, residential soil, and sediments and surface water in Moncrief Creek.
5. Health education should be provided to nearby residents to learn ways to minimize exposure.